

Application No.: 10/564,817  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111  
Reply to Office Action dated February 22, 2010  
May 24, 2010

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 6, 8 and 12 have been amended and new claims 16-25 have been added in the application. Currently, claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11, 12-13 and 15-25 are pending in the application.

The indication that claims 1 and 3 are allowed is noted with appreciation.

Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

1) The Examiner stated that it was unclear whether the phrase "said access size" in claim 6, lines 5-6 referred to "first access size" or "second access size". By this amendment, claim 6 has been amended to recite "at least one of said first access size and said second access size is changed according to the processing executed by said information processor". It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome by this amendment and it should be withdrawn.

2) The Examiner also stated that the use of the word "less" in claim 8, line 8 rendered the claim indefinite. By this amendment, claim 8 has been amended to recite "said information processor uses a first area management information cache having a

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physical management block size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium or a size smaller than said first area management information cache". It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome by this amendment and it should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohbi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0047602).

By this amendment, independent claim 12 has been amended to include similar subject matter to that of allowed independent claim 1. Specifically, independent claim 12 has been amended to recite "when said information processor accesses area management information that manages the free area state and the link state of the information recording area in said information recording medium as the file information, reading said file information of the first access size from said area management information when retrieving a free area from said area management information; and reading said file information of the second access size smaller than the first access size from said area management information when retrieving link information from said area management information". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 13 and 15 are now allowable over the prior art of record.

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By this amendment, new dependent claim 16, which depends from independent claim 1, has been added to recite "said information recording medium is a NAND flash memory". These features are clearly described on page 14, lines 13-16 of the specification.

Also, new dependent claim 17, which depends from independent claim 1, has been added to recite "said first access size is a size of an erase block which is determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium". These features are clearly described on page 14, lines 13-23 and page 16, lines 10-13 of the specification.

Also, new dependent claim 18, which depends from new dependent claim 17, has been added to recite "a size of said area management information is not a size of an integral multiple of the size of the erase block, and said first access size of said area management information is less than said erase block size". These features are clearly described on page 19, line 25 - page 20, line 20 of the specification and Fig. 4.

Also, new dependent claim 19, which depends from independent claim 1, has been added to recite "said information processor provides a first cache for retrieving a free area referring to said area management information and a second cache for retrieving a link state referring to said area management

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information, said information processor stores data of said first access size to said first cache read from said area management information, and said information processor stores data of said second access size to said second cache read from said area management information". These features are clearly described on page 27, line 19 to page 28, line 8 of the specification.

By this amendment, independent claim 20 has been amended to include similar subject matter to that of allowed independent claim 1. Specifically, independent claim 20 has been added to recite "An information processor for accessing an information recording medium having an information recording area and area management information that manages a free area state and a link state of the information recording area in said information recording medium, comprising: an access unit that accesses said area management information in said information recording medium; and a storing unit that stores data acquired through accessing, wherein said access unit reads data of a first access size from said area management information and stores data to said storing unit, when retrieving a free area from said area management information, and said access unit reads data of a second access size smaller than said first access size from said area management information and stores data to said storing unit when

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retrieving link information from said area management information".

Applicants respectfully submit that Ohbi et al. do not disclose the information processor reads file information in units of the first access size when retrieving a free area and reads data of second access size smaller than the first access size when retrieving the link state.

Also, new dependent claim 21, which depends from independent claim 20, has been added and recites the same features as claimed in dependent claim 3.

Also, new dependent claim 22, which depends from independent claim 20, has been added and recites the same features as claimed in new dependent claim 16.

Also, new dependent claim 23, which depends from independent claim 20, has been added and recites the same features as claimed in new dependent claim 17.

Also, new dependent claim 24, which depends from new dependent claim 23, has been added and recites the same features as claimed in new dependent claim 18.

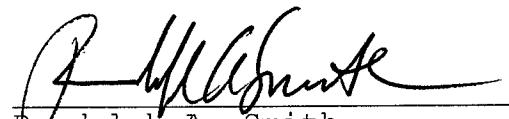
Also, new dependent claim 25, which depends from new independent claim 20, has been added and recites the same features as claimed in new dependent claim 19.

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In view of foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 24, 2010

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